



## **Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission**

### **August 21, 2012**

### **Louisville Free Public Library, Main Branch, Boardroom**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome & Announcements: Katy Schneider and Henry Heuser, Jr.**

Katy Schneider and Henry Heuser, Jr., Commission Co-chairs, welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission") members and guests.

The Commission received an update on Commission member Mark White's recovery from surgery. He is doing well and hopes to return to work in the fall.

It was announced that Paul Cappiello was appointed to the commission and will co-chair the Planting & Maintenance Committee.

Meeting minutes from the Commission's July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### **II. Updates**

##### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Allen Steinbock**

Allen Steinbock, Commission Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the status of efforts to establish the Louisville Tree Fund 501(c)(3). He has spoken to the Community Foundation of Louisville, which may be able to serve as the Commission's fiscal agent. Currently they are evaluating the cost of this structure. Katy stressed the importance of the 501(c)(3) to the Commission's work. Commission member Scott Hannah asked how people could give until the Fund is established. Katy responded that people can donate to Louisville Metro Government, directly noting the donation's purpose, and receive a letter documenting the tax-deductible gift.

##### **Education/Community Outreach Committee Report: Monica Orr**

Commission member Monica Orr, co-chair of the Education/Community Outreach Committee, shared a draft presentation that the Committee has developed to speak to groups about the benefits of urban trees. She explained that this was the first piece of a library of presentations that the group planned to develop. These presentations would be modular and could be used as needed depending on the audience's knowledge level and topic of interest. The Committee is also working on developing a tree stewardship program.

### **Street Ruckus: Katy Schneider**

Katy reported that she had received a call from Steve Paradis, owner of Fresh Start Growers Supply, about an event he was planning that he hoped could benefit the urban tree canopy. The Street Ruckus was planned for September 3<sup>rd</sup> and he hoped the Commission would be able to have a presence there. Kristen Booker, who was presenting later in the meeting, added some more background information on the event. The event planners hope that this will become an event series held in various neighborhoods around town and will benefit the urban canopy in each area. They will be youth-oriented and use music to draw people to the event from the greater region. This first event is benefiting the Main Street Association for renovation of Fort Nelson Park at Seventh and Main Streets. The Commission discussed how much of a presence the group could have at this point without having outreach materials developed. The decision was to try to have a table and sign-up sheets for people interested in the Commission's work.

### **III. Presentation of Frankfort Avenue Street Master Plan: Charles Cash & Kristen Booker**

Charles Cash asked Mike O'Leary to begin the presentation. Mike is the Chair of the Billy Goat Hill Community Garden, Inc. (hereinafter, "Billy Goat Hill") Board of Directors, which worked with Metro Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh to initiate development of the Frankfort Avenue Street Master Plan. He explained that this work came out of Billy Goat Hill's Tree Canopy Committee, chaired by Lorene Hunter.

Charles and Kristen Booker presented the plan, which can be found at <http://www.billygoatgarden.com/tree-canopy>. The corridor examined was Frankfort Avenue between Ewing Avenue and Mellwood Avenue (approximately 1.1 miles in length). The process started with a photographic inventory of the streetscape and included public meetings to find out what residents and businesses in the area wanted for the street. After breaking this area down into zones and examining each, they found that the poorest visual quality was at either end of the corridor. This also coincided with the available planting space for street trees, though there were many opportunities for improvement found. Using these zones they provided a selection of street trees that would be appropriate in each. They looked for a variety of species and included less common choices on their list. The idea was that this would create a walking arboretum, providing additional benefit to the community. The plan incorporated a continuous planting strategy that would take advantage of sidewalk replacement and repair projects to add in trees and the necessary infrastructure improvements for their long-term survival at the most cost-effective time. Billy Goat Hill's plan is for this Master Plan to be adopted and incorporated into the Louisville Metro Land Development Code.

After discussion of the plan, Scott Hannah made a motion for the Commission to endorse the Frankfort Avenue Street Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Commission member Robert Eberenz and was carried with a unanimous vote.

### **IV. Co-Chairs' Report: Henry Heuser, Jr.**

The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) recently announced that they will spend \$40,000 to plant 166 trees by October 1, 2012 on Fourth Street between Main and York Streets. The cost includes a contract to water the trees as needed for five years.

Henry also reported to the group that he had asked Dr. Brian Stone, who had presented to the group in June on Louisville's growing urban heat island problem, which cities that he thought we should be looking to for examples of successful tree programs. One of the cities recommended was Chicago. Henry then reported back from his research on their efforts. The report was provided to Commission members as part of their meeting materials. Henry encouraged the Commission to gather information from other cities. Monica Orr volunteered to contact Charlotte, North Carolina.

## **V. Master Plan RFP: Katy Schneider**

Katy reported that Commission member Shane Corbin had sent her Pittsburgh's Urban Forest Master Plan and that she found it to be an impressive example and one that may be very helpful in our efforts. She contacted the organization responsible for this plan, Trees Pittsburgh, and they are sending additional information and resources. Katy will distribute this information to the Commission as it is received. It was suggested that due to the large size of these documents that she establish a dropbox.com account for this purpose.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The next Commission meeting will be September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Board Room. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Katy for her outstanding efforts to move the Commission's work forward and improve Louisville's tree canopy.